

The Arlington Advocate

50 CENTS, VOL. 121, NO. 5

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF ARLINGTON SINCE 1872

THURSDAY, February 4, 1993

RECYCLING ROUTE THIS WEEK

NEWS

■ Some Town Meeting precincts have a shortage of candidates. Page 2A.
■ Environmental officials are trying to clean up local water reservoirs after two recent fuel spills. Page 2A.
■ Discussions continue on what to do with the Reeds Brook site on Arlington's town border. Stop & Shop has suggested a deal that could bring the town additional money to buy the Reeds Brook land. See page 1A. For an editorial on the issue, see page 10A.

EDUCATION NEWS

■ For a report on how the education reform battle may affect Arlington, see page 14A.
■ Rep. Anne Paulsen reports on the recent round on education reform on Beacon Hill, page 12A.
■ An Educators' Forum is planned for Feb. 11 at Arlington High. See page 2A.
■ Third-graders at the Brackett School write to President Clinton with a few words of advice. Page 14A.

ELECTION NEWS

■ February will see a flurry of campaign activity, as the March 6 town-wide election approaches. For announcements of upcoming forums and political events, see pages 2A and 13A. The Advocate continues its traditional policy of printing statements from candidates for town offices; see Election News and Comment, page 13A.

COMING EVENTS

■ Blues singer Rory Block will perform at town hall on Feb. 20.
■ A "Snow Train to Vermont" is booking reservations.
■ For more Coming Events, see pages 9B, 10B, and 11B.

IN SPORTS



■ Co-captain Dom Pazzia of Arlington unleashes a shot for Minuteman Tech in the game against St. Mary's. The teams battled to a 4-4 tie. For more sports, please see the B-section. (Advocate photo by John Pawlick.)

WHAT'S INSIDE

BIRTHS	6B
BUSINESS	7B
CLASSIFIEDS	12B
COMMENT	10A
CROSSWORD	11B
EDUCATION	14A
EVENTS	9B
LETTERS	10A
LIBRARY NEWS	2A
OBITUARIES	8B
POLICE LOG	6A
R.E. TRANSACTIONS	7B
SENIORS	4A
SPORTS	1B
THINGS TO DO	11B
WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS	6B

32 pages, 2 sections

Harte-Hanks Community Newspapers



ADVOCATE PHOTO BY ART ILLMAN

PROVISIONAL LOCATION?

Lou Fornl, a regular customer of the Stop & Shop on Mass. Ave., after a shopping trip this week.

Stop and Shop pushing for expansion plan

By E.H. Stockstill
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER

Stop & Shop foodstores has once again made an offer for 2.4 acres of school department-controlled land behind Arlington High School for use as a "superstore."

"Stop & Shop Supermarket Co. has always wanted to have a superstore facility at the Mass. Avenue location," company spokeswoman Terry Vandewater said in a statement. "We feel it is in the best interest of the company and of the town of Arlington

to have a fully-expanded facility at this location."

The company is willing to pay the school department at least \$4 million for the land.

The New England grocery chain has made a number of bids for the athletic practice field over the last several years — one time offering to finance a collegiate-sized swimming pool at the high school in exchange for the land — but it has been rebuffed in its efforts to enlarge its Mass. Avenue business.

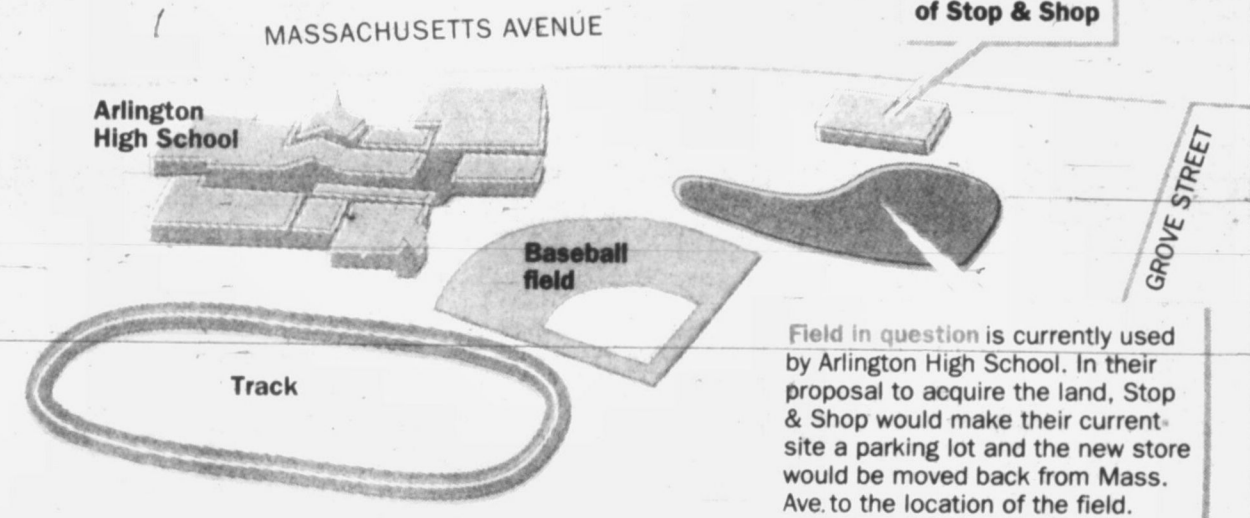
Now the company has raised the

possibility of a deal that could involve the federal government and the 20-acre Reeds Brook parcel, the site of a closed municipal landfill.

A proposal currently before the School Committee includes an offer to help the town in its efforts to obtain from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) control of the former municipal dump on Summer Street near the Lexington town line. The \$4 million offered for the 2 1/2 acre athletic field behind the high

GROCERY, See page 16A

Proposed site of Stop & Shop expansion



HCMN MAP BY PAT CAPOBIANCO

Taxi companies speak out against new limo service

By Dave Denison
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER

A new limousine service offering direct transport from Arlington to Logan Airport has prompted complaints about unfair competition from two long-established taxi companies that serve the town.

Representatives from Arlex Cab Co. and Arlmont Transportation first aired their concerns at a Board of Selectman's meeting last week. The

board approved a license application by Capital Coach, a one-car limo service operated by Dudley Street resident Michael T. O'Neill.

"Mr. O'Neill's running a nice car," said Ronald Bonney Jr., operations manager of Arlex Cab, a Medford-based company that runs Yellow Cabs. But by opening the door to a new airport "jitney" service, the town may soon face "floods of people coming out so they can run the same service," Bonney said.

Taxi drivers in Arlington and other nearby towns contend that specialized airport service is moving in on the most lucrative slice of the transport business, leaving cabbies to handle the short trips that bring them small change. "The taxi men depend on airport service," said Richard Truscillo, general manager of Arlmont Transportation, which operates Arlington Cabs.

TAXIS, See page 5A



ADVOCATE PHOTO BY ART ILLMAN

Barbara Zubin, a Yellow Cab driver. Yellow is run by Arlex Transportation, the town's largest cab company, which holds the town contract for the Dial-a-Ride service.

Car dealer owes town \$37,000

By E.H. Stockstill
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER

The Board of Selectmen Monday night granted a three-month extension on a business license held by a local automobile dealership that owes the town close to \$37,000 in back taxes.

The board's decision follows a one-month extension given to the company — Milla's Subaru, Inc. — in December to pay real estate and motor excise taxes, as well as past-due parking fines.

Interest on all delinquent taxes, which total at least \$36,858.20, will collect at a 16 percent simple rate, according to officials in the treasurer's office.

Because a business license extension was granted to Milla's Subaru instead of a renewal, the \$100 annual licensing fee will not have to be paid by the company yet.

"Reasonable people can come together and make a reasonable decision," Selectmen Charles Lyons said after the decision at the Monday meeting. "What are we supposed to do, put them out of business?"

A number of businesses were given one-month extensions last December in order to pay delinquent taxes, as well as to come into compliance with various town regulations.

Only one other company, Cumberland Farms, currently has failed to pay its taxes. Cumberland Farms is in bankruptcy. Selectmen recently

approved that company's license due to the firm's move for bankruptcy protection.

One of Milla's Subaru Inc.'s two locations — at 874 Mass. Avenue — is now up for sale, according to a letter from Peter Massimilla of that company. Money from the sale of the site will be used to pay taxes due on that location, Massimilla stated.

Massimilla also stated in a letter addressed to selectmen that some of his taxes for the 1 Broadway address, the company's other location, have been paid to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) to meet a mortgage payment. He reportedly is in the process of obtaining that

TAXES, See page 16A

Large crowd attends diversity forum

"We must create a society of tolerance, acceptance, understanding"

By Wendy Mimran
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE
and E.H. Stockstill
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER

A healthy respect and appreciation for religious diversity needs to be taught in the public schools, Leonard Davidson, chairman of the speaker's bureau of the Anti-Defamation League, told a crowd of nearly 200 gathered at Arlington High School Tuesday night.

Davidson spoke at a presentation sponsored by Temple Shir Tikvah of Winchester and the Jewish Community Association on the subject of "Religious Diversity in the Public Schools."

Speaking to a crowd that included residents from Arlington, Winchester, Belmont and other Greater Boston communities, Davidson spoke of the need to encourage a multi-religious society in the public schools.

"We often find the wall between church and state is a chain-link fence," he said. "There's clearly an overlapping of the secular and the sacred."

"How would we feel about singing songs to Allah or Buddha or being asked to declare fervently that there is no God?" he asked.

The presentation was held in the wake of a two-month controversy in town surrounding a Nativity scene that was displayed at the Jefferson Cutter House during the holidays.

Davidson said that religion has often proven to be politically divisive in the past, and he stressed that acceptance of all religions, not just the faith of the majority, needs to be a part of the public school system.

"It is time for us to join hands and to find the way together," he said. "When we tolerate insensitivity, we perpetuate intolerance. We must be vigilant in creating a society of tolerance, acceptance and understanding."

Others at the meeting expressed concerns similar to those of Davidson's after he finished speaking.

Kathy Colwell, an Arlington resident and president of the Arlington Educational Enrichment Fund, spoke in support of programs in Arlington public schools that encourage diversity. "I never experienced diversity, and I think it's wonderful what my children are experiencing," she said. "I can't teach them about diversity. I have been isolated all my life."

Rabbi Ferenc Raj, rabbi of Beth El Temple Center in Belmont, said that "I strongly believe that religion doesn't belong in the schools. I believe children should learn about religion in their churches and synagogues. The public schools are not religious schools."

John Deyst, an Arlington resident, said educating students about religion does not have to include favoritism toward a particular religious faith.

"You can teach about slavery without advocating slavery," he said. "You can also teach about religion without advocating a particular religion."

Kendra Linder-Johnson, a junior at Arlington High School, attended the presentation. Selected as a student-participant in the recently formed Peer Counseling on Diversity program, Linder-Johnson commented on what she sees as the role of the program, which will focus on a wide range of diversity issues, including religious diversity.

"The most important thing we can do is to have the one to one contact," she said. "It's easier for students to come up to other students than to adults with problems. These are kids that go to the same school. If they see that something is wrong and it is brought back to a peer counselor's attention, maybe we can do something together for ourselves and for our school to change it."

In an interview later with The Advocate, Davidson emphasized his position on the need for religious neutrality in the public schools.

"If there is a tendency to promote religion, it's unconstitutional," he said.

INSIDE ARLINGTON

NEWS NOTES

Workshop planned for 'Battle Road'

Three public workshops to be presented by the staff of Minute Man National Historical Park and faculty from the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts at Amherst will address the Cultural Landscape Plan for the park's Battle Road unit.

The park's goal is to preserve and interpret the historic landscape along the "Battle Road" in Lexington, Lincoln and Concord while increasing farming, recreational opportunities and conservation. UMass Amherst is working with the park to study the evolution and significance of the landscape and prepare a detailed treatment plan to guide future management.

According to Superintendent Lawrence Gall, a similar public workshop held last year had a good response.

Each of the three workshops will focus on a different aspect of the plan. Each session will include a presentation about the planning work followed by discussion and audience input.

A Wildlife/Conservation Workshop will be held on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. The park seeks to restore historical landscape features while enhancing natural resource conservation. Issues to be addressed include linkages with local protected lands, landscape ecology, habitat diversity and possible use conflicts.

A Farmers' Workshop will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. An important park goal is to utilize opportunities for agricultural reintroduction. The presentation will address historic farming and modern realities. Issues include types of feasible farming, integrated pest management, field size and configuration, and lease considerations.

A Recreation/Trails Workshop will be held on Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. The park's goal is to restore portions of the cultural landscape while providing an opportunity to walk and bicycle on trails along the Battle Road and through the surrounding fields. Issues include linkages with local trail systems, resident/tourist conflicts and compatibilities with wildlife habitat.

All three workshops will be at the Town House in Concord Center. Interested persons are invited to any and all of the sessions. For more information call (508)369-6993.

Technology may assist the disabled

Technology Information Project (TIP) seeks to raise public awareness of assistive technology for people with disabilities. Until recently, information on such technology has been available only in English. But now, with funding provided by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education, TIP is reaching out to multicultural/multilingual communities that have had limited access to information on assistive technology.

The term "assistive technology" describes any product or piece of equipment that can help a person with a disability do more for him or herself at home, at work, at school or at play. TIP has produced a 13-minu-

te VHS video, "Independence Through Technology," that introduces viewers to a range of products that might make their everyday lives much easier and more satisfying. TIP hopes to reach individuals who are relatively unfamiliar with assistive technology and the options it offers people of all ages who want to increase their ability to participate at school, on the job and in the lives of their families and communities.

The video is available in English/open captions, English/ASL, Haitian, Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese. Copies may be borrowed, at no charge, for up to 30 days. For more information, contact Paula Sotnik at TIP, P.O. Box 341, Lincoln Center, 01773, or call 1-800-886-8477.

Affirmative action committee seeks new members

The Town's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee meets regularly on the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Central School on Academy Street.

The committee is currently recruiting individuals interested in becoming members of the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee. Membership involves assisting the Town in implementing its own Affirmative Action Plan, complying with federal and state regulations and developing relevant training workshops and programs.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 10. All interested residents are welcome to attend this open meeting.

For further information, call the Affirmative Action Office at 646-1000, ext. 4110.

Educator's forum set for next week

An Educators' Forum is planned for Thursday, Feb. 11 at Arlington High School. Designed especially for teachers who live in or teach in Arlington, the forum will feature comments from most or all of the candidates for School Committee. The event is scheduled for 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. All citizens are invited. The sponsoring organizations are the Arlington Administrators' Association and the Arlington Educational Association.

Former Rep. Gibson to be honored

The Belmont Firefighters Union, Local 1637, will hold an appreciation night for former state Rep. Mary Jane Gibson in recognition of her many years of service to the towns of Arlington and Belmont. The gathering will be Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1272, 310 Trapelo Rd., Belmont.

State Rep. to speak at UU Church

State Rep. Jim Marzilli, lifelong resident of Arlington, will be the guest speaker at the Unitarian-Universalist Church Women's Alliance Potluck Dinner on Monday, Feb. 8, at 6:45 p.m. "What Legislation to Expect From the State House" will be the topic of his speech, with focus on the proposed state budget. He will answer questions on any other topics presented to him during the question and answer period.

The public is invited. Participants of the Potluck Dinner are requested to bring a dinner course serving six to eight people.

Meetings

Monday, Feb. 8:

The Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Cutter House.

Tuesday, Feb. 9:

The School Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the sixth floor hearing room in Arlington High School.

Wednesday, Feb. 10:

The Vision 2020 Standing Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Safety Building.

Thursday, Feb. 11:

The Vision 2020 Communications Task Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall annex first floor planning room.

CABLE TV



(All programs shown on Arlington Community Television, public access channel 3, unless otherwise noted.)

Thursday, Feb. 4:

6 a.m. Continental Aerobics
9 a.m. Continental Aerobics
3:30 p.m. Extra Credit LIVE
5 p.m. Video Shortcuts
5:30 p.m. Another Comedy Show
6 p.m. Community TV Update
6:30 p.m. Runners Journal
7 p.m. Town Hall Topics
7:30 p.m. Beyond the Classroom
8 p.m. The Missing Tooth
8 p.m. Selectmen's Meeting (Ch. 45)
9 p.m. Living Unlimited
10 p.m. Continental Aerobics
11 p.m. Arlington Philharmonic

Friday, Feb. 5:

9 a.m. Continental Aerobics
10 a.m. Golden Opportunities
10:30 a.m. Customer Connection
11 a.m. Guitar 101
11:30 a.m. Community TV Update
12 p.m. Cable Cuisine
12:30 p.m. Quilt with Marnie
1 p.m. AHS Hockey vs. Cambridge (R)

5 p.m. The Film Show

5:30 p.m. Arlington Educational Forum
6 p.m. Companion Animal Medicine

6:30 p.m. Hal Koltin Show
7 p.m. Video Fanzine
8 p.m. AHS Basketball vs. Medford LIVE

10:30 p.m. The Front Page

Saturday, Feb. 6:

9:30 a.m. The Front Page
10:30 a.m. The Missing Tooth
12 p.m. AHS Basketball vs. Medford (R)

5 p.m. Video Shortcuts
5:30 p.m. Town Hall Topics
6 p.m. Living Unlimited
7 p.m. Another Comedy Show

7:30 p.m. Forever Baseball
8 p.m. Talking Sports
9 p.m. Video Shortcuts

9:30 p.m. Town Hall Topics

12 a.m. Another Comedy Show

12:30 a.m. Forever Baseball

Sunday, Feb. 7:

10 a.m. Live from The Pleasant Street Church

11:30 a.m. Video Shortcuts

12 p.m. Town Hall Topics

12:30 p.m. Living Unlimited

1:30 p.m. Another Comedy Show

2 p.m. Forever Baseball

2:30 p.m. Talking Sports

5 p.m. Video Shortcuts

5:30 p.m. Town Hall Topics

6 p.m. Living Unlimited

7 p.m. Another Comedy Show

7:30 p.m. Forever Baseball

8:30 p.m. AHS Basketball vs. Medford (R)

Monday, Feb. 8:

5 p.m. Another Comedy Show

5:30 p.m. Beyond the Classroom

6 p.m. Forever Baseball

6:30 p.m. Arlington Educational Forum

7 p.m. Community TV Update

7:30 p.m. Shake, Rattle and Roll LIVE

8 p.m. Arlington Hockey vs. Cambridge (R)

10 p.m. Continental Aerobics

11 p.m. The Missing Tooth

12 a.m. Arlington Ear

Tuesday, Feb. 9:

9 a.m. Continental Aerobics

5 p.m. Forever Baseball

5:30 p.m. Ready, Willing, Enable

6 p.m. Our Women Talk

6:30 p.m. Golden Opportunities

7 p.m. AHS Hockey vs. Somerville LIVE

7 p.m. Video Shortcuts (Ch. 50)

10 p.m. Continental Aerobics

11 p.m. Talking Sports

12 a.m. Arlington Ear

Wednesday, Feb. 10:

6 a.m. Continental Aerobics

7 a.m. Arlington Ear

9 a.m. Continental Aerobics

5 p.m. Quilt with Marnie

5:30 p.m. Cable Cuisine

6 p.m. The Book Case

6:30 p.m. Continental Journeys

7 p.m. ACHS Hockey LIVE (Ch. 47)

7 p.m. The Front Page LIVE

8 p.m. Guitar 101

8:30 p.m. Golden Opportunities

9 p.m. ACHS Hockey vs. Somerville (R)

11:30 p.m. Arlington Ear

LIBRARY NEWS

Programs for children

The Children's Services Department of the Robbins Library offers free Saturday programs at the Fox Branch, 175 Mass. Ave. at 10:30 a.m. The schedule for February is as follows:

Feb. 6, "Valentines Galore" — come by the Fox Library anytime after 10:30 a.m. and make valentines. No registration required.

Feb. 13, Vacation week activities begin — Stop by the library and add a portrait to the gallery of Arlington children who "Love Their Library." Free RIF (Reading is Fundamental) paperbacks and pencils will be given away the first time library cards are used during this week.

Feb. 20, "Toddlers and Twos Activity Day" — Children, aged 15 to 35 months are invited to come by the library with an adult to have a morning of play with other children their age. No sign up is required.

Feb. 27, "Stories to Tickle your Funny Bone" — For children ages 5

to 7 — a storytime full of stories followed by a simple craft. Sign up begins Feb. 20.

New business directories available

The Reference Department has recently received the following business/financial sources for use in the library: "Morningstar Mutual Funds Report," "Dun's Regional Business Directory" and "The Massachusetts Business Directory." "Morningstar" is a resource for investors. The business directories are used heavily by job seekers and those doing market research. Ask at the information desk.

New medical sources

The Robbins Library has added several new titles to its reference collection that may be of interest to Arlington residents. Two new medical texts bringing medical knowledge up to the 1990s are included in this group. They are: "Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy," 16th edition, 1992 and "Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine," 12th edition, 1991 (in two volumes). Also two titles based on the 1990 U.S. Census,

"Atlas of the 1990 Census" and "Up Close 1990 Census Sourcebook: Northeast." Other titles of interest are: "Living With Low Vision" and "Rehabilitation Resource Manual: Vision."

Videos are available for seven-day loan

Many videos on a wide range of subjects are available in the special interest video collection at Robbins Library. Popular series such as, "Where There's a Will, There's an 'A,'" "The Civil War," "Eyes on the Prize," "The Astronomers," "The Story of English," "Ring of Fire" or "Making Sense of the Sixties" circulate for seven days to any Minuteman Library Network cardholder. Other series include video instruction in yoga, building bookcases, dog training, sign language and WordPerfect. A list of special interest videos, feature films and children's videos may be consulted at the library. For information, call the information desk at 641-4884.

Services for the disabled are offered

TDD, a telecommunication device

for the deaf is available for loan from the main library. The library's TDD number is 641-1303. Machinery available for loan to aid the visually impaired includes tape recorders and players, and a TV caption decoder. In addition, the library has a collection of "Talking Books" for loan.

Friends of library to hold brown bag lunch

This month's brown bag lunch sponsored by the Friends of the Robbins Library, will be held next Tuesday, Feb. 9, at noon, at the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, corner of Mass. Ave. and Pleasant Street.

Bring a sandwich — coffee, tea and dessert will be provided by our hospitality committee. Socialize awhile, watch a video, and listen to a talk by local resident, Lily Johnson.

Johnson, an avid traveller, skier, and hiker is, incidentally, blind. She will bring her seeing-eye dog, T'm It, and talk about the work of Fidelco, the only seeing-eye dog training school in New England.

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Back Talk

by Dr. N. Richard Archambault
Chiropractic Physician

PAIN IN THE NECK

The neck is one of the most frequently strained structures in the body. Its susceptibility to stress and strains is largely due to the fact that the neck is the most vulnerable part of the spinal column. The neck (cervical spine) is composed of seven small bones (vertebrae), supported only by muscles and ligaments that help maintain and balance the head which weighs about ten pounds. Even a seemingly insignificant bump or fall can affect any of the eight pairs of spinal nerves of the cervical spine which lead to various parts of the body. Pinched or irritated nerves can result in pain between the shoulder blades, headache, facial pain, dizziness, shoulder/arm/hand numbness, etc. It is the chiropractor's job to diagnose and treat neck problems that have such far-reaching effects.

Today, there are specialists for almost every part or system of your body. You know, however, that every body function is, in one way or another, related to the spine through the nervous system. The doctor of chiropractic is the specialist in this area. I strive to remove the barriers which prevent a whole and totally healthy body. Our attractive, new office at 9 Chestnut St. (across from St. Agnes Church) Arlington, features the most advanced chiropractic equipment, including the latest X-ray exposure and developing. I also offer muscular therapies, including muscle stimulation, ultrasonic therapy and cyclomassage. Call 646-8400 today for an appointment.

P.S. Repeated episodes of a stiff neck generally indicate the presence of an underlying structural problem in the cervical spine which should be treated ASAP!

9 Chestnut St., Arlington, MA • 646-8400



The Arlington Advocate

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POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

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JACQUELINE HARRINGTON, CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE IS SEEKING ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:

I. WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

Despite the fact that the law grants to school committees the power to review and approve school budgets, our present committee, by a 5/4 vote on Jan. 12, agreed to "accept the finance committee funding recommendation with the understanding that we feel we need a budget of \$21,509,901 to maintain the current level of services."

Why is our school committee allowing the finance committee to determine the size of the school budget without first analyzing it in detail themselves?

II. DO WE HAVE A SLIGHTLY-BETTER-THAN-AVERAGE SCHOOL SYSTEM BECAUSE WE HAVE MANY DIFFERENT POTENTIALITIES TO ACCOMMODATE OR

DO WE HAVE A MEDIOCRE SYSTEM BECAUSE WE DON'T ACCOMMODATE ANY LEVEL WELL?

The '92 M.E.A.P. results revealed that 79% of students, statewide, in grades 4, 8 & 12 tested below level 3; Arlington, 68%. Is this cause for rejoicing or cause for alarm?

III. WHY IS THE PRESENT SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNABLE TO AGREE ON GOALS FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

At their January 12th meeting, seventy-five goals were accepted into the record. **None were adopted.**

As a member of the school committee, I will meet my responsibilities and question until answers are found. My goal is to make you proud of the Arlington Public Schools.

ON MARCH 6th VOTE HARRINGTON FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Paid for by Jacqueline Harrington

ARLINGTON NEWS

Clean-up continues on oil spills

By E.H. Stockstill
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER

Two recent accidental fuel leaks in Arlington have environmental specialists working to clean up water at the town's reservoir, and near the Mill Brook.

On Dec. 19, a spill from a ruptured oil line underneath the Fairlawn Nursing Home on Lowell Street in Lexington caused oil to seep into the Monroe Brook, and also into the Arlington Reservoir.

Water at that reservoir is used for recreational purposes only.

A gas leak on Dec. 31 from pipes underneath the Getty gasoline station on Summer Street lead to fuel vapors wafting into a home at 15-17 Pine Street and the fuel contaminating groundwater that filters near the Mill Brook.

Cleanup of both sites has now begun, but state environmental officials are uncertain how long the work will take.

Costs for the work will be borne by the nursing home and the service station.

"I can't put a time on it," said Roger Chu, an environmental supervisor at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) involved in the Summer Street area cleanup. "It's very difficult. It depends on how dirty it (the water) is."

DEP officials, along with the Zecco company of Northborough are working at the Summer Street site.

A two-staged process will be used

to freshen the water near the station, Chu said. Groundwater will be filtered through a system of wells to remove floating particles of dirt and debris, then it will be flushed of excess gasoline by a pump setup.

Suction fans and absorption "booms" are also being used to exhaust gasoline vapors and soak up fuel.

Residents at a two-family Pine Street home, including at least one child, had to be evacuated after the problem was detected, but Chu said those homes in the area potentially endangered by the spill are now safe.

The total amount of gasoline spilled in that area of Summer Street is still unknown, Chu said, and he would not estimate how long cleanup work would take.

DEP officials are also working with Newburyport-based ENPRO Environmental Services to clean up Monroe Brook in Lexington and the Arlington Reservoir.

"The flow in the river was very rapid and that makes it difficult to contain," said DEP environmental analyst Scott Sayers. "But once we got there and set up the containment system, it pretty much absorbed most of the oil."

"The source has been stopped," Sayers said.

A problem in the area was noticed after a pedestrian reported an oil odor at the brook. Lexington and Arlington officials assisted in the initial effort to stem the leak.

The amount of oil leaked was unknown.

But while both situations appear to be under control, local Conservation Commission officials say they are concerned about a lack of communication between various town departments, concerning environmental issues.

Poor communications tend to impede their ability to assist in cleanup efforts, they say.

Conservation commissioners said they were not notified of at least the Monroe Brook problem until the state had actually stepped in, and commission Chairman Roland Chaput said such a communication breakdown needs to be addressed.

"We were certainly upset," Chaput said. "We weren't made aware of the problem so that we could at least keep tabs on it and, if necessary, issue an injunction," he said.

"There may be an educational need here," Chaput added.

The Conservation Commission is the immediate executive authority over environmental matters such as oil and gas spills. They have the authority to assess damage responsibility and levy fines, if deemed necessary, under local bylaw and state regulations.

Chaput, however, said he was pleased with the progress of the work in both areas.

According to state records, there currently are at least 17 locations in Arlington that are slated for investigation by DEP officials.

NEWS NOTES

Directory of fairs is on sale

"Fairs and Festivals 1993" marks the 18th year for this annual directory that lists contact and application information, locations and descriptions of more than 600 festivals in 26 states and the District of Columbia. "Fairs and Festivals 1993" also features two indexes, one by state and one by festival title.

This crafts-oriented publication lists producers and sponsors of mail, trade, and high-end crafts shows, as well as the more intimate, harder to find community fairs. Other helpful sections included in "Fairs and Festivals 1993" list state-wide organizations, craft centers, tax number contacts, a comprehensive bibliography and more. It is an indispensable marketing tool for thousands of craftspeople, artists, performers and vendors, as well as a guide for the public, buyers, and the press.

To obtain a copy of "Fairs and Festivals 1993," mail a check for \$12, plus shipping and handling (\$3.50 in New England, \$3.75 outside New England), payable to the Arts Extension Service, Division of Continuing Education, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, 01003, or call 413-545-2360 with your Visa, MasterCard or Discover card number.

Pet protection now available

A Taunton-based firm has announced a 24-hour toll-free pet protection and recovery service designed to help keep pets safe, and aid in recovering them if they are lost, stolen, or injured.

The service is available from Contact Marketing Inc. (CMI). Under the National Pet Protection Network NPPN plan, full information about the pet and its owner is stored on an informational database under the pet's assigned personal security identification number. The pet receives a brightly colored identification plate which is attached to the collar. The plate contains the pet's security code, the NPPN 24-hour toll-free telephone number, and a message offering a reward for calling the toll-free number.

A person finding a lost pet calls the

NPPN national assistance number. The NPPN operator receiving the call then locates the owner information (under the pet's security code), contacts the pet owner and arranges for prompt recovery of the pet.

If the pet is found injured and the owner cannot be immediately contacted, the NPPN operator contacts the family veterinarian or animal shelter to assist in arranging emergency medical treatment. NPPN then pays a reward to the person finding the pet.

According to Alan Hamilton, president of the firm, "the Humane Society reports that over 12 million pets were lost, stolen or abused in the

United States in 1991, and over 8 million pets were terminated (suffocation in a decompression chamber, or lethal injection) because the owners could not be located in time.

"Under our network protection plan, many of these losses can be avoided, and owners will have the security of knowing they have a 24-hour "guardian" watching over their pets, while keeping the private information about the owner confidential."

Pet owners wishing to have free information about this new service are invited to call the NPPN toll-free information number 1-800-800-2565, Monday Through Friday.

Some Town Meeting seats have no candidates

By E.H. Stockstill
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER

Out of 204 available Town Meeting seats this year, only 151 candidates will be running for the town's legislative office, according to records in the town clerk's office.

That number includes the 139 candidates running for re-election.

A number of precincts, recently redistricted, will have a full slate of 12 Town Meeting seats up for grabs. The terms to be served in those precincts will be determined by election results, according to the town clerk's office. In other words, those four candidates in a precinct receiving the highest number of votes will serve three-year terms, the next four will serve two-year terms and the final three will serve one-year terms.

Those redistricted precincts are 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 20.

The lack of public participation in town government is somewhat discouraging, town officials said, but not unexpected.

According to Town Clerk Ann M. Powers, having a smaller number of candidates run than the total number of seats available has been a problem in the past.

Powers said this year a number of things have contributed to the low turnout, including the new redistricting. She also said the earlier deadline for written notice of candidacy for Town Meeting, falling as it does near the Christmas holiday, has led to lower turnouts.

This year's deadline for filing a written notice of candidacy was Jan. 11.

"It's worse this year" than in the last few years, Powers said. Turnout has been particularly low this year in Precinct 14 (6 candidates for 12 open seats) and 20 (5 candidates for 12 open seats).

However, turnout in Precinct 13 was somewhat better, with 13 candidates running for 12 open seats.

According to Powers, the turnouts for the past six years were as follows:

1992: 91 candidates for 108 seats
1991: 95 candidates for 93 seats
1990: 86 candidates for 97 seats
1989: 105 candidates for 104 seats
1988: 122 candidates for 187 seats

and 1987: 76 candidates for 112 seats.

Individuals running for Town Meeting in Arlington must be residents of the town, Powers said.

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SENIOR NEWS

ARLINGTON SENIORS ASSOCIATION

Weekly programs

Sponsored by the Arlington Seniors Association, these programs are offered every week at the senior center. To join a class or group, call 646-1000, Ext. 4740 or 4743.

Monday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., exercise; 1 to 4 p.m. contract bridge.

Tuesday, 10 a.m. to noon, writers' workshop, 10 to 11:15 a.m., beginning line dance with Charlie Kay.

Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon, informal knitting; 1 to 4 p.m., contract bridge; 1 to 3 p.m., beano; 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., exercise.

Thursday, 9 to 11 a.m., square dance lessons; 10 a.m. to noon, senior forum; 1:15 to 2:30 p.m., line dance class.

Friday, 9 to 10:30 a.m., yoga; 1 to 4 p.m., contract bridge or other games and pool lessons.

Sunday Valentine Dance

Our Valentine Dance will be Sunday, Feb. 7. Dot and George will conduct the dancing. Daphne and Diane of "Unlimited Living" on Channel 3 are giving prizes of three mini-psychic readings. Refreshments will be served. Suggested donation is \$2.

Line dance for beginners

The basic steps of line dancing will be taught by Dottie and George every Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$2.50.

Cribbage

Cribbage instructions are available on Mondays at 1 p.m.

Senior overnight trips

April 12 through 15, Washington, D.C.: Four days, \$309 double occupancy. Six meals (three breakfasts, one luncheon, and two dinners). A Washington guide for the Capitol, White House, Embassy Row etc. Plenty of time for the Smithsonian Museums, accommodations at the new McLean Hilton Hotel. Deposit of \$25 is due by Feb. 20. Call Betty at 643-6143.

June 10, eight-day Mackinac Island Grant Hotel Tour: 12 meals are included in the price of \$999 per person double occupancy. Visits to Buffalo, Detroit, Henry Ford Museum, Mackinac Island (Grant Hotel), Frankenmuth Amish Country and Niagara Falls. Deposit of \$100 is due now. Cancellation insurance is available. Call Mary at 648-0311.

Day trips

March 24, Randolph — Irish Bash

at Lantana's. Paddy Noonan and his Irish Variety Show: Paddy Noonan is directing the show and on the accordion. Choice of meal: baked Irish ham with raisin sauce or boiled Boston scrod. Entire package including meal, show and transportation via deluxe motor coach is \$38. Book early. Call 648-9018 on day trips.

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING Dial-a-Ride

Important Information

This year the Dial-A-Ride contract was awarded to Arlex Taxi.

Dial-A-Ride is a federally funded town operated discount transportation program for taxi service for senior citizens and handicapped persons within the town limits of Arlington.

You may purchase your annual Dial-A-Ride card at the Council on Aging for a fee of \$2. With this card, you will be allowed to use the Dial-A-Ride taxi in Arlington for up to 10 rides a month for the reduced rate of \$1.25 per ride. All round trips are considered two rides and the charge will be \$2.50.

Coupons are used to pay for the taxi service. You may purchase coupons at the Arlington Council on Aging, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by mail. Coupons are available in books of five for \$6.25 or 10 for \$12.50. Single coupon purchases are being discouraged. Coupons and Dial-A-Ride cards may be requested by mail. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with a check for the correct amount and mail to Dial-A-Ride, Arlington Council on Aging, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 02174. You may begin using the coupons on Feb. 1. Effective March 1, only coupons will be accepted by the drivers.

Health counseling schedule

Thursday, Feb. 4, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at COA; Tuesday, Feb. 9, 11 a.m. to noon at Unitarian Church; Thursday, Feb. 11, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at COA; and Thursday, Feb. 18, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at COA.

Links

The Links Program has been funded by W.R. Grace to "link" seventh and eighth grade students with elders needing yard cleanup, raking leaves, pet care, etc. Dennis Mecurio is the school student coordinator. All arrangements for doing and monitoring work will be made between senior students and their parents. Interested seniors should call June Brooks, Monday through

Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 646-1000, Ext. 4720. She will pass the request to the school coordinator who will match seniors with students if they are available.

Storm cancellations

If Arlington public schools are closed due to inclement weather, Meals-on-Wheels will be cancelled. Listen for announcements on your local radio stations, WBZ, WHDH, WEEI and WMJX.

SHINE hours change

COA health benefits counselors will be at the Council on Aging on Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., to provide free confidential assistance with questions on Medicare, MEDEX, health maintenance organizations, insurance claims forms, prescription drugs etc. To make an appointment, call 646-1000, ext. 4720. If you, for any reason, are unable to keep your appointment with SHINE, a call letting us know would be appreciated.

Minuteman Home Care Eating Together meal site

Senior Center Luncheon Site, 27 Maple St.: Call site manager Marge Scott, 646-1000, Ext. 4747, for reservations and transportation. Drake Village Site, Hauser Bldg. 37 Drake Village Road: Call site manager Marilyn Bruno, at 648-7500, for reservations and transportation. Reservations are necessary. Menus may change without notice. Monday, Feb. 8, spaghetti and meatballs; Tuesday, Feb. 9, baked chicken quarter/gravy; Wednesday, Feb. 10, beef burgundy; Thursday, Feb. 11, meatloaf/mushroom gravy; Friday, Feb. 12, turkey Tetrazzini.

Project Hire

If you are in need of a companion, homemaker or health aide and you live in Arlington or Lexington, contact June Brooks, at Project Hire/COA, at 646-1000, ext. 4720, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 27 Maple St., Arlington.

Social services notes

If certain personal problems have you or a member of your family troubled, don't keep them to yourself. Outreach worker, Diane Tainter, a licensed social worker, can help you with short-term counseling, nursing and retirement homes, emotional dysfunction and the like. For more information, call Tainter at 646-1000, Ext. 4720.

Senior Citizens' Law Project

The Senior Citizens' Law Project

of Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services Inc. provides legal assistance to eligible Arlington Seniors at no charge. Legal assistance is available in the following areas, among others: Social Security, SSI, Medicaid, Medicare, evictions, and nursing home care. Call the intake line: 646-1000, Ext. 4720 or Ext. 4731. You can also meet with intake workers, Myrtle Joy, at the Arlington Council on Aging.

Drivers needed

Volunteers are needed for Meals-On-Wheels delivery, one hour per day, per week or per month. No number of hours is too small or too great. To set up a time to fit into your busy schedule, call the Council on Aging, at 646-1000, Ext. 4720.

It's tax time again

The Council on Aging is once again sponsoring the AARP TCE (Tax Counseling for the Elderly) program.

Trained volunteers will assist elders with filing their state and federal income tax returns.

The service will be provided starting Feb. 1 and ending April 15, at the following locations:

Monday: COA, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: Calvary Methodist Church, from 9 a.m. to noon

Thursday: St. James Rectory, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Friday: COA, from 9 a.m. to noon

Appointments are not necessary but are recommended. Call the COA at 646-1000, Ext. 4720 for an appointment.

Independence after vision loss

On Friday, Feb. 5, at 12:45 p.m., there will be a presentation for seniors at the Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St. Donna Burt, a rehabilitation specialist, from the Perkins Outreach Service to Elders Program, will speak on "Maintaining Independence After Vision Loss." All area seniors are invited to attend. This presentation is free and is sponsored by Arlington Guild For The Blind.

Podiatry clinic

The monthly podiatry clinic will be held on Feb. 15, from 9 a.m. to noon, at COA, 27 Maple St. Dr. Daniel Seligman will provide an examination of the feet, nail cutting, and minor treatment of food ailments. For Medicare recipients eligible for Medicare coverage, services will be billed to Medicare. Non-Medicare eligible services will be charged to patients at a rate of \$12 per visit.

For an appointment call 646-1000, Ext. 4720.

'Assisted living' an option

Assisted living facilities (ALFs) are an important option for elders who find it difficult to live at home but don't need skilled nursing home care. Explains Joan Butler-West, executive director of Minuteman Home Care in Burlington, "Assisted living involves a home-like residence which offers support services and a 'resident-centered' philosophy of care, allowing independence and individual choice." Assisted living combines housing services with support services to permit an elder to remain living in a home-like setting as they grow frailer.

Butler-West says that while the number of assisted living facilities has grown dramatically in other parts of the country, it has remained relatively undeveloped in Massachusetts. Currently, there are less than 20 such sites in the state.

Governor William Weld filed legislation this past November to reverse this trend by offering seniors more choice and alternatives in their selection of housing and assisted living arrangements. According to Weld, the legislation will enable seniors to "age in place, which is crucial to maximizing their quality of

life, dignity and autonomy."

Until legislation passes that sets specific standards for assisted living facilities, Butler-West advises great care when choosing an assisted living facility. Some important issues to consider are: Is there 24-hour access to a caregiver? Do they provide assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, feeding, etc.? Are other support services available such as daily nutrition and assistance with the administration of medication. "Most importantly," Butler-West says, "talk to residents and families about the facility. Find out what people really think about its services. Ask about the track record of the assisted living facility developer. Do they operate other facilities?"

"The possibilities for assisted living are exciting," comments Butler-West. "It gives elders another community option, provides care at a lower cost than nursing home care, and emphasizes independent living." Advocates hope that assisted living legislation will be a top priority in the 1993 session of the state legislature. For information on assisted living in Massachusetts, call the ElderLine at 1-800-AGE-INFO.

Adult day care is offered

Cooperative Elder Services, Inc. (CESI), currently has openings for residents of Arlington in their Adult Day Health and Social Day Care programs at 27 Maple St., Arlington. The center is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

These programs aim to provide a warm, friendly setting for frail elders who would benefit from a structured,

supervised daytime environment. In addition, these programs also offer nursing supervision, therapeutic recreation, door-to-door transportation and a hot meal and snacks. These programs accept Medicaid, State Home Care and private paying participants.

For information, call Grace Haley at 646-1000, Ext. 4750.

Art group to hold workshop

"Creating a Picture: Some Basics to Remember" will be the topic of a workshop sponsored by the Arlington Art Association at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St. Local watercolor artist Edie Allen will talk

about choosing a subject, composing a picture, creating an illusion of depth and using darks and lights. Art materials will be provided. Newcomers are always welcome. The fee is \$3 for nonmembers. For information, call Sylvia Willson at 646-1437 or Frances Chakin at 492-1459.

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ARLINGTON NEWS

Cabbies object to new limo

TAXIS, From page 1A

Out of the 44 taxi permits issued in Arlington, Arlex has 26 and Arlmont 14.

Truscello, who complained that cab companies face strict regulations that airport livery services don't, told Selectmen, "the taxi business is suffering because of this livery situation."

"Shall we turn our taxi medallions in?" he asked. "I mean, what do we need taxis for?"

Selectmen approved O'Neill's application after consulting Town Counsel John Maher about whether the limo service was indeed required to have a town-granted license.

Capital Coach has already been in operation in Arlington for at least six weeks, O'Neill acknowledged at the meeting. "I just started in business, and Chief Carroll said 'let's see what develops,'" O'Neill explained, referring to Police Director John Carroll.

Maher advised the Board that it has the authority to license all taxi companies and vehicles-for-hire that are based in Arlington.

Selectman Charles Lyons moved approval, saying that a report from Carroll indicated "that Mr. O'Neill is an outstanding citizen." Selectman Kevin Greeley was the only board member to vote no.

Greeley said after the meeting that since this is the first license of this type granted, "I'd rather take a more cautious approach."

"To be honest," Greeley added, "I feel I do want to help the businesses that have been long-established in the town of Arlington."

O'Neill continued to insist this week that he does not need an Arlington license. "I'm considering withdrawing the application," he said.

Charging that town officials "just don't understand the business,"

O'Neill said his company should not be subject to a process that other livery companies operating out of Boston aren't subject to.

Maher said the distinction between companies is made because O'Neill is running his business out of Arlington, while other limousine services are not. "The town doesn't control business from another town," Maher said. "He's asking to be based in the town of Arlington."

Maher said if O'Neill operates his company without an Arlington license "the Board (of Selectmen) would take appropriate action."

"I really don't understand what he's upset about," Maher said. "I mean, he got the application approved and now he's complaining that the board gave him what he wanted."

O'Neill said he was unhappy with the board's restrictions on his business. The license granted is for transportation service only from Arlington to Logan airport. O'Neill said he also wanted to offer limo service to downtown Boston.

O'Neill said he has discussed with his lawyer whether the board's actions constitute restraint of trade.

Maher dismissed such possibility. "That's an often heard complaint" that most often comes from people who don't understand the town's regulatory authority, Maher said.

The parties also disagreed on whether O'Neill is required to be licensed by the state Dept. of Public Utilities and the Massport Authority. DPU is charged with approving rates of transport services without meters in the cars, and Massport regulates traffic operating out of Logan airport.

O'Neill said he does not believe he needs a DPU license.

Meanwhile, competing cab companies have other concerns. Bonney

said that while the taxi industry "is regulated on every aspect of its business," livery companies don't get the same oversight. Bonney said there is no state requirement that drivers of livery services have their backgrounds checked, as is the case for cabbies.

In the background of the taxi company complaints are concerns that have been raised about O'Neill's work history. "Mr. O'Neill is a former employee who was fired for cause," said Bonney of Arlex.

O'Neill, who has worked for several cab companies in the area, said "I was let go from Arlex at one time," but said the company took him back before he left a second time on his own decision. Neither party elaborated on the cause of the firing.

For his part, O'Neill does not dispute that more livery companies may look for an opportunity to get a piece of the Arlington market. "That's a very likely prospect," he said.

But O'Neill, who is the son of former Congressman Tip O'Neill, said the existing cab companies have sometimes unreliable service and "abominable" cars. "They're afraid of the competition," he charged.

"I worked for both those companies; I know what those vehicles are like," O'Neill said, referring to Arlex and Arlmont.

Bonney said he believes his company "runs the cleanest cabs around."

CLUB NEWS



Tower Mothers' Club holds first meeting

The Tower Mothers' Club held their first meeting of the year at the home of Judith Pooley on Jan. 25.

The December 1992 meeting and annual Christmas banquet was held at the Winchester Country Club. The social committee arranged an enjoyable evening for all who were able to attend.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Feb. 22 at the home of Lucille Hunter.

Tea at the Garden Club

The Arlington Garden Club will hold its Valentine Tea on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at noon at St. John's Church. The tea will be followed by a business meeting. Mabel Herwig will present a program "Thebana, Art of Japanese Flower Arranging."

Child care program at Fidelity House

There are limited openings for children in kindergarten and grades one through five. The program fea-

tures a variety of activities including arts and crafts, sports, ceramics, cooking, table games, local field trips and special events. The program runs from 2 to 5:30 p.m., with extended care available until 6:30 p.m. Coverage for all early release days, full days and snow days is also offered. Transportation from some public schools is also available. Call 648-2005 for more information.

Arts and crafts news at FiHo

Fidelity House offers a drop-in, stay as long as you like, arts and crafts program for participants on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays,

from 2:15 to 4:45 p.m. for first graders and up. Recycled materials are used for many arts and crafts projects and donations are always appreciated.

Vacation programs

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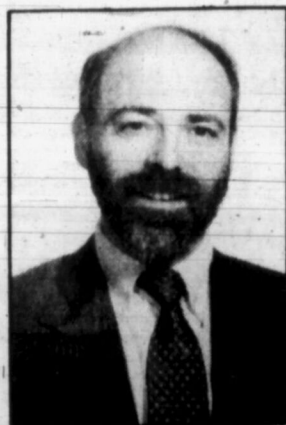


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ARLINGTON NEWS

POLICE
LOG

ARRESTS

■ A 25-year-old Lexington woman was arrested by Lowell Police in Lexington last week on warrants outstanding, police said. The woman was charged with larceny by check, according to police.

■ A 44-year-old Malden man was arrested on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 3:06 p.m. and charged with shoplifting, police said. According to the police, the man had attempted to take several cartons of Marlborough cigarettes without paying for them.

■ Jan. 27 at 1:45 p.m., a 29-year-old Arlington resident was arrested and charged with shoplifting, police said.

■ On Jan. 27, a 39-year-old Medford man and a Hudson woman were

arrested and charged with larceny under \$250 (shoplifting) and larceny of a motor vehicle, police said. The two were apprehended after police received a report from workers at the Highland Market in Arlington Heights. Both individuals allegedly attempted to steal several steaks from the grocery store, then tried to escape in a 1982 Chevrolet Celebrity that had been reported stolen from Waltham, according to police.

■ A 17-year-old Arlington resident was arrested Thursday, Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. on warrants outstanding for him, police said. The warrants charged the resident with receiving stolen property, police said.

■ A 26-year-old man was arrested Friday, Jan. 29 at 10:45 a.m. on outstanding warrants, police said. The 1992 warrants detailed two charges of receiving stolen property, according to police.

■ At 11:30 p.m. on Jan. 29, two Russell Terrace residents were arrested and charged with assault and battery, police said. Christine Forrest, 26, and Chris Solmon, 28, were

arrested after an incident in which he allegedly hit her and she bit him on the chest and arm. Police described the incident as a "mutual assault and battery" and said that the individuals had probably been drinking at the time of the fight.

■ On Jan. 26 at 7:12 a.m., a 32-year-old Washington Street man was arrested and charged with assault and battery, police said. Darryl Hicks was arrested after he allegedly punched his wife in the face after a disagreement between the two of them. According to police, Hicks may seek cross-complaints against his wife.

■ On Sunday, Jan. 31 at 1:20 a.m., a 34-year-old Arlington man was taken into protective custody by police after he was found in an allegedly intoxicated condition, police said. The man was released later that same day, police said.

VANDALISM

■ Vandalism of a motor vehicle at a Mass. Avenue address was reported Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 9:01 a.m.

■ On Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 8:22 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported vandalized at a Summer Street address.

■ On a Grove Street address, a motor vehicle was reported vandalized on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 5:24 p.m.

■ Residential vandalism was reported to police at a Mystic Street address Sunday, Jan. 31 at 4:40.

LARCENIES &
BREAK-INS

■ Monday, Jan. 25 at 7:15 a.m., assorted tools were reported stolen from a 1985 Ford van parked at a Mt. Vernon Street address. Police said a window in one of the vans was also

smashed.

■ An alleged larceny in Arlington was reported to police on Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 6:25 p.m.

■ At 6:31 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 27, a residential breaking and entering at an Arizona Terrace was reported to police.

■ Thursday, Jan. 28 at 4:10 p.m., a residential breaking and entering at a Pelham Terrace address was reported to police. According to police, \$3900 in assorted jewelry was taken from the house. Police said a woman at the address maintained workman renovating her house might have taken the goods. The woman had also thrown a party at her house around the same time. Police are investigating the matter.

■ Saturday, Jan. 30, residential break-ins were reported at the following locations: a Newport Street address at 8:57 p.m.; and a Udine Street address at 10:42 p.m.

■ Jan. 30 at 8:11 p.m., a \$450 television set and a \$250 Nintendo video game were reported stolen from an Arizona Terrace home.

■ A residential break-in at a Park Avenue address was reported to police on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 10:42 a.m.

■ At 10:25 p.m., a break-in at a Mass. Avenue business address was reported to police on Jan. 31. According to police, around \$80 in cash was taken from the Mass. Avenue business, along with an undisclosed amount of jewelry.

■ On Feb. 1 at 2:39 a.m., a Jason Terrace man reported his wallet and \$10 stolen from him while he was walking along Appleton Street. Police said the man was unable to give a description of his assailant, who allegedly punched him and knocked him to the ground.

MISCELLANEOUS

■ A domestic disturbance at a

Washington Street address was reported to police on Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 7:12 a.m.

■ An accident at the corner of Mass. Avenue and Jason Street was reported to police on Jan. 26 at 8:11 a.m. No injuries were reported.

■ At 12:47 p.m., police received a report of threatening remarks being made at a Mass. Avenue address on Jan. 26.

■ Youths were reported gathering at the corner of Burton and Acton streets at 2:32 p.m.

■ Two summons were served to the following addresses on Jan. 26: a School Street address at 6:36 p.m.; and a Claremont Street address at 6:44 p.m.

■ On Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 1:05 p.m., a fight at the corner of Appleton Street and Mass. Avenue was reported.

■ There was an accident at a Broadway address reported to police on Jan. 27 at 2:10 p.m. No accidents were reported.

■ A domestic disturbance at a Mass. Avenue address was reported to police at 5:25 p.m. on Jan. 27.

■ At 6:19 p.m. on Jan. 27, an assault and battery at a Viking Court address was reported to police. According to police, two Arlington youths, one 12 and the other 10, were involved in an argument when one of the youths was sprayed in the face with mace.

■ Youths were reported gathering at a Ryder Street address on Jan. 27 at 9:02 p.m.

■ On Thursday, Jan. 28 at 12:29 p.m., threats at a Mystic Street address were reported to police.

■ An accident at a Mass. Avenue location was reported to police Jan. 28 at 12:55 p.m. Injuries were reported, police said.

■ At 5:37 p.m., a warrant was served to someone at a Scituate Street address on Jan. 28.

■ A domestic disturbance at a

Ronald Road address on Jan. 28 was reported to police at 5:50 p.m.

■ On Jan. 28 at 5:57 p.m., a summons was served to someone at a Foxmeadow Lane address, police said.

■ At the corner of Orivis Road and Newcomb Street there was an accident at 6:31 p.m. on Jan. 28 that was reported to police. Injuries were reported, according to police.

■ Police reported a summons being served to someone at a Mystic Street address on 7:11 p.m. on Jan. 28.

■ At 7:18 p.m., a domestic disturbance at a Summer Street address was reported to police on Jan. 28. Later that night, at 8:02 p.m., another domestic disturbance was reported to police.

■ On Friday, Jan. 29, police received reports of threatening comments being made at a Peirce Street address around 10 a.m.

■ An accident along Route 2 was reported to police Jan. 29 at 1:06 p.m.

■ A family disturbance at a Mass. Avenue address was reported to police at 5:33 p.m. on Jan. 29.

■ At 9:09 p.m. on Jan. 29, youths were reported gathering at a Millbrook Drive address.

■ Saturday, Jan. 30, a family disturbance at a Pleasant Avenue address was reported at 2:20 p.m.

■ Youths were reported gathering on Jan. 30 at the following locations: the Spy Pond area at 9:19 a.m.; a Rangely Road address at 5:57 p.m.; and the corner of Pleasant Street and Gray Street at 9:57 p.m.

■ Police received reports of motor vehicle accidents at the following addresses on Jan. 30: a Herbert Road address at 1:20 p.m.; and the corner of Mass. Avenue and Milton Street at 2:08 p.m. According to police, no injuries were reported.

■ A domestic dispute at a Gardner Street address was reported to police at 6:24 p.m. on Jan. 30.

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ARLINGTON NEWS

FIRE REPORT



■ On Sunday, Jan. 24, firefighters responded to fire alarms at the following locations: a Hillside Avenue address at 12:11 a.m.; and a Mass. Avenue address at 10:53 p.m.

■ Firefighters responded to medical emergencies at the following locations on Jan. 24: a Mystic Street address at 8:17 a.m.; a Grove Street address at 9:03 a.m.; and a Foxmeadow Lane address at 10:50 p.m.

■ On Monday, Jan. 25, firefighters responded to a fire in the basement of a Gloucester Street home at 5:13 a.m.

■ Firefighters responded to medical emergencies at the following location on Jan. 25: a Washington Street address at 8:06 a.m.

■ Fire officials conducted an investigation at a Pleasant Street home on Jan. 25 at 4:59 p.m.

■ Tuesday, Jan. 26, firefighters responded to medical emergencies at the following locations: a Spy Pond Parkway address at 3:08 a.m.; a Summer Street address at 4:08 a.m.; a Winslow Street address; and a Washington Street address at 1:58 p.m.

■ Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at a Pleasant Street address on Jan. 26 at 8:07 p.m.

■ On Wednesday, Jan. 27, firefighters responded to medical emergencies at the following locations: a Mass. Avenue address at 10:29 a.m.; a Ridge Street address at 10:53 a.m.; an Avon Place address at 11:10 a.m.; a Colonial Drive address at 12:36 p.m.; and Acton Street address at 4:15 p.m.; and a Harris Circle address at 10:03 p.m.

■ An investigation at a Mass. Avenue address was conducted by fire officials Jan. 27 at 4:17 p.m.

■ Thursday, Jan. 28, firefighters responded to medical emergencies at the following locations: a Mary Street address at 2:49 a.m.; a Fairmont Street address at 6:47 a.m.; an Amsden Street address at 8:15 a.m.; a Mill Street address at 11:35 a.m.; and a Maple Street address at 1:33 p.m.

■ Fire officials conducted investigations at the following locations on Jan. 28: a Cleveland Street address at 7:24 a.m. (kitchen fire); a Winslow Street address at 9:29 a.m.; and a Mass. Avenue address at 5:11 p.m.



Firefighters assess the scene at an Edith St. house fire on Jan. 30.

■ Firefighters responded to fire alarms at the following locations on Jan. 28: the corner of Robbins Road and Gray Street at 9:42 a.m.; the Thompson School at 12:24 p.m.; and a Russell Terrace address 11:55 p.m.

■ A car fire at the corner of Mass. Avenue and Pleasant Street was reported to fire officials at 3:53 p.m. on Jan. 28.

■ On Friday, Jan. 29, fire officials responded to medical emergencies at the following locations: a Sherborn Street address at 3:48 a.m.; a Paul Revere Road address at 10:20 a.m.; and a Mass. Avenue address at 2:20 p.m.

■ Saturday, Jan. 30, firefighters responded to medical emergencies at the following locations: a Mill Street address at 2:41 p.m.; a Mystic Street address; a Ridge Street address at 8:24 p.m.; a Shelley Road address at 11:12 p.m.; and a Mass. Avenue address at 11:37 a.m.

■ Investigations were conducted by fire officials at the following locations on Jan. 30: a Park Avenue address at 7:55 a.m.; and a Mass. Avenue address at 9:15 p.m.

■ At 9:49 p.m., firefighters responded to a fire alarm at the corner of Hemlock Street and Governor Road.

■ On Sunday, Jan. 31 at 10:51 a.m., firefighters responded to a medical emergency at an Appleton Street address.

■ A fire alarm at a Pleasant Street address was responded to by firefighters at 1:12 p.m. on Jan. 31.

■ On Jan. 31, investigations were conducted by fire officials at the following locations: a Mary Street address at 1:57 p.m.; and a Mystic Street address at 2:45 p.m.

■ A car fire at a Broadway address was reported to the fire department on Jan. 31.

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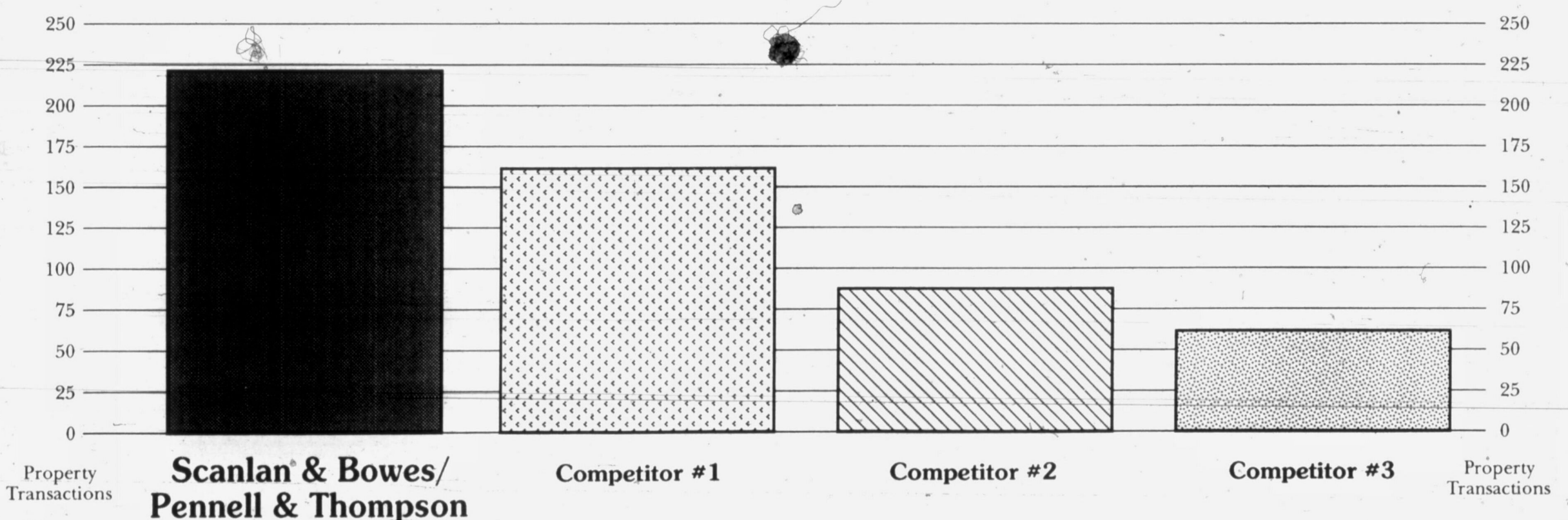
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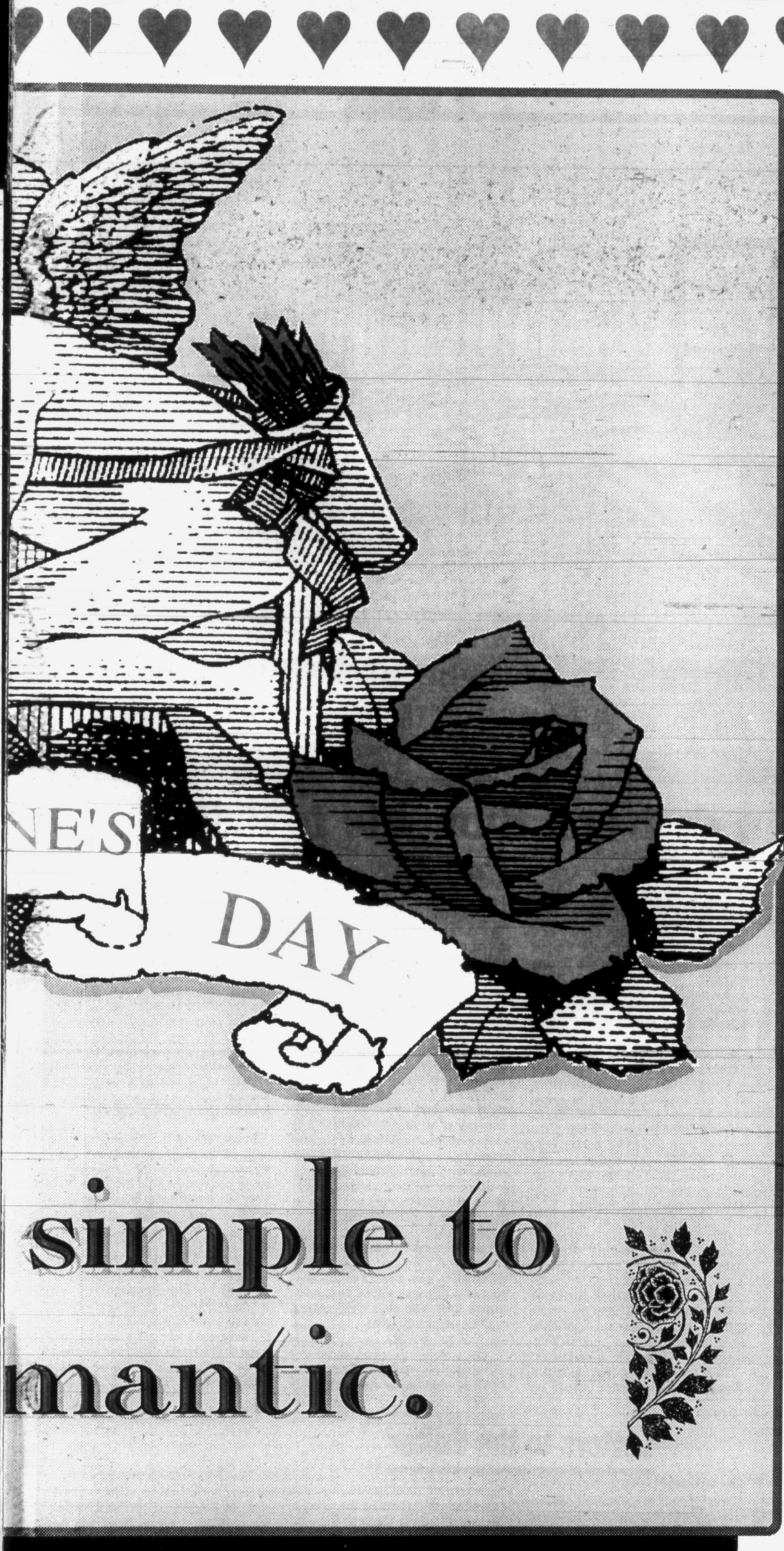


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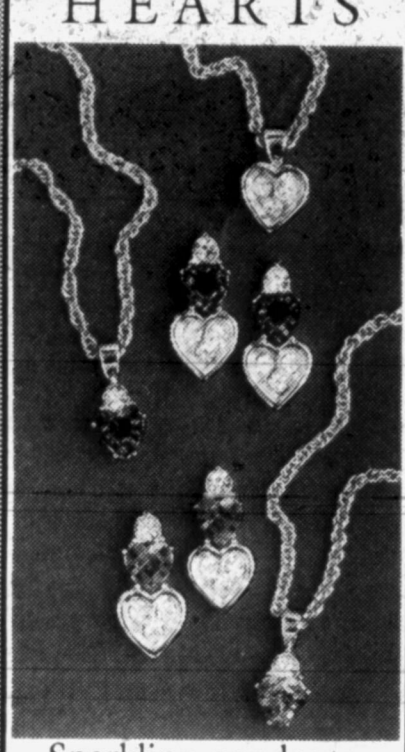
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The Arlington Advocate

COMMENT



The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"

Samuel Wilson

Editorial

Consider the possibilities

Several impressive plans for redevelopment of the Reeds Brook plot — the town's former dump site — were on display this week at a meeting of local officials. Some plans under consideration by the Redevelopment Board call for a mix of housing and recreation space, while others envision the site as a large new park.

Since the Redevelopment Board was charged by Town Meeting last year to explore the idea of obtaining control of the now-closed landfill on Summer Street near the Lexington town line, questions about local liability for the property have remained. Officials and residents have been divided over the legal implications of ownership of the land.

What was striking about the plans that were recently discussed was the range of promising potential that the 20-acre site offers in the way of new greenspace in Arlington. The town has been right to actively explore the possibility of acquiring the land.

While the legal aspects of such a move are important to consider, it should be noted that chances like this don't come along very often in Arlington. With the town so densely populated, a new park should rank pretty high on our list of common goals.

State environmental officials and legal experts have stated that at least partial liability for the property belongs to the town because it used the site as a landfill during the 1960's.

The town is concerned about its legal standing, and the related costs, in the matter. And rightfully so.

But the town should not be scared away from Reeds Brook simply out of fear of incurring a legal responsibility that already exists.

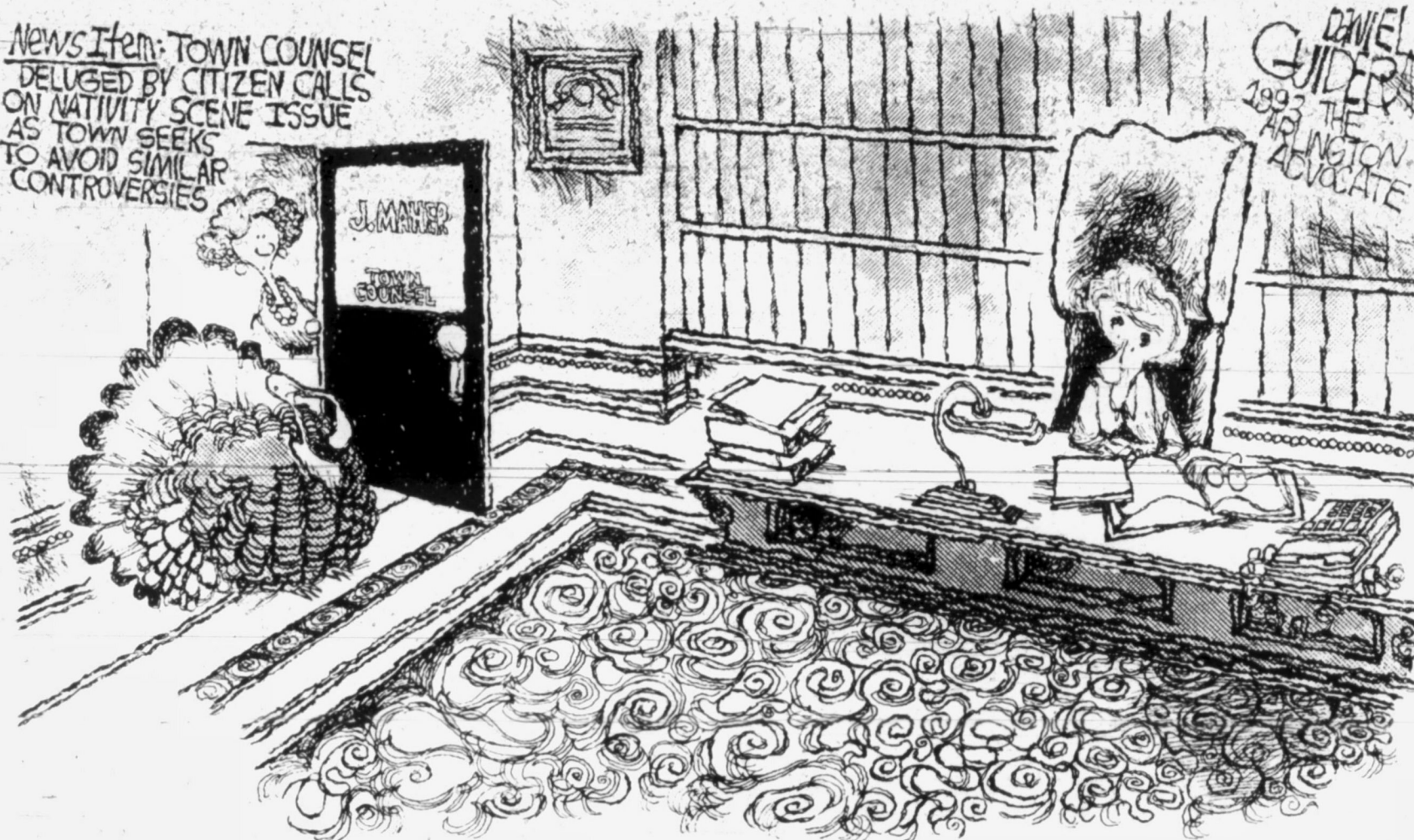
Arlington should consider carefully the opportunities the open space at Reeds Brook affords and continue to pursue its present course of looking into the idea of obtaining the land.

A public health issue

Health Director Walter Galvin stopped by our offices the other day with a copy of the state law that requires cats and dogs to be vaccinated against rabies. The law, which becomes effective as of Feb. 24, states that "Whoever is the owner of keeper of a dog or cat in the commonwealth six months of age or older shall cause such dog or cat to be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian using a licensed vaccine..." Director Galvin calls our attention especially to the fact that cats — not just dogs — are covered by the law. Veterinarians are required to issue a tag with each vaccination, which is to be attached to the pet's collar, or, in the case of a cat, at least kept in the possession of the owner.

Cats are thought to be at greater risk of getting rabies because they are more often left on their own in the outdoors and are more likely to encounter a rabid raccoon, or other infected varmint. There is also some concern about the virus spreading among the stray cat population.

The Board of Health will be offering cat vaccinations on Saturday, March 6.



"ER... SOMEONE WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU ABOUT THE TOWN'S THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION..."

The Bureau delivers: thoughts to drift off by

From the Editor's Desk

DAVE DENISON

There's a relentless paper blizzard that is an inevitable part of the news business, even now that computers, and microchips and electronic impulses seem to run the show. Press releases and announcements blow into the office and form large drifts. We clear what we can and turn them into electronic signals, only to have them reproduced several thousand times over again on newsprint.

Trees fall in the forest to keep us all well-informed.

Many of the press releases we get have useful information — though usually what could be said in two sentences is said in ten. Some others inspire only the most quizzical moment of wonder as they flutter into the waste paper pile (destined, we hope for some sort of recycled future). A national karate competition will be held in Saugus, featuring karate, tae kwon do, and kung-fu. "Time is running out to get tickets for an evening of fabulous music with Guy Rotondo and his Artist Show-

case Singers," according to Neurofibromatosis, Inc., of Wilmington. A "beauty extravaganza" is sponsored by the Hairdressers United International, Inc. and Conair, Corp. "as a benefit for the Cut for Hope Project to aid trauma victims in the Beauty industry." Hmmmm...

This week, though, we got one that was good for several moments of enjoyable reading. Startling as it may seem, it came from a government agency.

It's the FYI letter from the Bureau of Markets at the Massachusetts Dept. of Food and Agriculture. And it contains good news. To wit: Apple growers in the Bay State produced a bumper crop this year, up ten percent over last year. And of the two million and some bushels harvested, there are now 725,124 bushels in cold storage, ready for the market.

In other words, here in the dead of winter, with the ground covered by snow and the wind-chill dipping below zero, we might be well advised to gather up a few plump Cortlands, cut them into a pie shell sprinkled with cinnamon, and bake up a taste of those long-lost autumn days when we could walk around outside without benefit of overcoat and galoshes.

It's a pleasant thought. Pleasant enough that that alone would be

enough to salute the Bureau of Markets with the Press Release of the Month award, if there were such a thing. But there's more!

We are also informed that the Massachusetts potato harvest this past year was the most ample since the 1950s. There were 855 million pounds of spuds grown here.

And, that Massachusetts ranks number one in the nation in cranberry production, with 49.9 percent of the U.S. cranberry crop grown here. And that Massachusetts is "not far behind" New Jersey in tomato production — New Jersey being a leading tomato state.

On top of all that, the Bureau has advice on the selection of locally grown roses and orchids for Valentine's Day. Imported roses apparently don't last as long as local ones, which are usually only two days in transit from grower to florist.

All in all, the FYI crowd at the Bureau of Markets has delivered a pretty good helping of the kind of information one doesn't mind stopping and thinking about on a cold winter day. Who says government can't do anything right?

Starting this week, I will be writing a new column for the Advocate, to be

called "Talking Politics." Though the first column is made up of my own opinions, I hope it will most often give voice to others who have something to say. I am interested in interviewing people who want to talk frankly about politics. No offense to the hustling pols out there, but it isn't the politicians I am interested in; it's the ordinary citizens. I will be seeking out people who hate politics as well as those who love politics — and even those who are bored by the whole subject. Maybe the topic will sometimes be talking about *talking* about politics. Is it a subject best not brought up in polite society?

In this era of the instant tracking poll, do we really understand what makes public opinion? Do we understand why people hold the views they hold? How much real conversation is going on about politics — or is there just more and more chatter and natter?

And what is politics, anyway? What is it good for? Do we still believe in politics as a civilizing activity, or is it a noisy, tiresome game that brings out the worst in people?

These are some of the questions I hope to start with. We'll see where it leads. My feeling is that there is a lot to talk about.

Letters to the Editor

Police director responds on parking

(The following is in response to a letter published in the Jan. 21 Advocate.)

To the editor:

Ordinarily I would not publicly comment on disciplinary action taken within the Police Department, but where Officer Femia decided to make a public statement, I believe it is important that I respond.

First it should be noted, the residents of a street in East Arlington complained of non-enforcement of the overnight parking by-law. Police supervisors brought this to the attention of Femia, the area sector officer. When Femia consistently failed to take proper action, he was cited for his neglect of duty. Everyone is accountable for his or her work performance, and there is no reason for Femia to think he should not be included.

I also believe it is important to set straight the record. To misrepresent the situation is a challenge to one's credibility. Division records indicate the town manager reported to police on various dates a vehicle to be parked in front of his home during the Christmas and New Year period. The reason given was "visiting relatives" and "no space off street to accommodate the additional vehicle." Traffic Rules and Orders Article v, Sec 14, allows for exception "for a good cause." Visiting has always been an acceptable cause, and the temporary exception granted the town manager was the same as is granted to all citizens on a temporary basis.

Records also indicate a building permit was issued to Mr. Gilligan on July 7. A permit to place a dumpster in the driveway was granted for the

period July 3, 1992 to August 8, 1992. It was obvious to all that reconstruction was taking place. With no room to park in the driveway, Gilligan was granted permission to park a vehicle on the roadway. This, too, is a common-sense exception granted to all citizens under similar circumstances.

Citing unrelated incidents does nothing to mitigate neglect of duty. Police supervisors who would take no action in such cases would, themselves, be in neglect of duty. While the overnight parking ban is in effect, citizens have every right to expect enforcement.

In the meantime, I will be glad, as suggested, to discuss overnight parking matters with residents. I will also be available to discuss with residents complaints of inadequate or poor, police performance.
John F. Carroll
Director of Police Services

Unity and tolerance

To the editor:

The recent controversy regarding the removal of the creche from the Jefferson Cutter House lawn does indeed seem "a minor matter compared with the challenges that face our community's day-to-day health, education and welfare" as stated in your column of Jan. 21. Yet, as you also point out, there is an underlying issue worth pursuing, the idea of "trying to blend unity with diversity." How sad the irony that this community must present in future holiday seasons its tribute to unity, nothing. Doesn't the very idea of unity with diversity imply tolerance? Tolerance such that we as community members and fellow human beings accept the differences in each other's beliefs and ideals to become a better community and yes, a better world. Tolerance towards

Christians in our community who enjoy the displaying of the creche; tolerance towards those of the Jewish faith in our community who wish to display a menorah; tolerance towards Buddhists, Hindus, Atheists, etc. in our community who wish to display symbols of their faith on the lawn during the holiday season. Imagine the display of unity this town could present if we were all a little more accepting and tolerant of those who differ. I don't think anyone wishes a neighbor to feel discriminated against whether they are a part of the so-called "majority" or otherwise, but I do think it is sad when intolerance is veiled as persecution.
Sandra M. Smith
Egerton Road

For understanding, not alienation

To the editor:

In reference to the Nativity scene controversy, I would like to offer some observations and comments and a brief bit of "creche history."

The creche was a gift to the Town of Arlington given by private citizens some years ago (1950 era) and accepted by the town as a gift at an Annual Town Meeting.

The creche has been placed out for public viewing since then by employees of the Public Works Department at two different locations. For several years it was located at the Central Fire Station at Massachusetts Avenue and Broadway and then at Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street where it was located this past year.

Some three or four years ago inquiries by citizens were raised as to government participation in this yearly event. Since that time, volunteers from various town depart-

ments and private citizens have erected the creche on Town property usually on the second Saturday after Thanksgiving Day. The creche is removed in early January.

The volunteers perform this chore gladly and do so for the benefit of all citizens who may pass by during the holiday season. The volunteers see this display more in its historical and traditional sense rather than a religious one.

During the past few weeks, The Arlington Advocate has published several Letters to the Editor, Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meetings and editorials in reference to the creche; all of which has added to quite a public furor.

I, for one, have always encouraged and welcomed citizen participation in government. Citizen participation is good and is what makes a government succeed. It is what makes a government work.

In Arlington this participation has always been sprinkled with diversity of opinion and at times issues have become very heated. The expression: "That's what makes horse racing!", lends itself to the expression: "That's why we have a legal system in America!" A legal system of petition, debate and hopefully settlement.

The main thrust of my writing this letter is to state that regardless of the outcome of this issue, I would suggest very strongly that we as citizens do not allow ourselves to become alienated from one another. That we look upon this issue as we do the many issues that have come before us in the past and ones we will surely face as a town in the future.

I am somewhat saddened when the integrity of one citizen or group is called into question by another citizen or group of citizens. This and other criticism is usually caused by

LETTERS, See page 11A

WRITE THE ADVOCATE

Please send your letters to the editor (typewritten if possible) to:
Letters
The Advocate
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We ask that letters to the editor be signed with name and address, though we may occasionally withhold the writer's name by request if we are given a compelling reason.

The Arlington Advocate

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